

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00510 051425Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 CU-00

EB-08 AGRE-00 /111 W

-----123384 060042Z /63

R 051300Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM TRIPOLI

REF: TRIPOLI 0367 (NOTAL)

1. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE QADHAFI HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE TRIPOLI AREA FOR ALMOST A MONTH.

2. FOLLOWING HELICOPTER CRASH MARCH 6 (REFTEL), QADHAFI DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY FROM PUBLIC VIEW FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HE RE-EMERGED IN BENGHAZI ON MARCH 24 TO RECEIVE PARTICIPANTS OF CHAD RECONCILIATION TALKS AND GIVE BLESSING TO PROCEEDINGS. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE HAS MADE A NUMBER OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN CYRENAICA PRESIDING OVER DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS AT AGRICULTURAL PROJECT NEAR BENGHAZI AND GIVING THE FEATURE SPEECH AT TOBRUK ON THE OCCASION OF BRITISH EVACUATION DAY. PRESS REPORTS THAT HE REMAINS IN BENGHAZI AREA ENGAGED IN BRIEFING STUDENTS AT GAR YOUNIS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00510 051425Z

(BENGHAZI UNIVERSITY) AND OTHER SCHOOLS ON PART II OF GREEN BOOK.

3. REASONS FOR QADHAFI'S CONTINUED ABSENCE ARE SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION AMONG TRIPOLITANIANS AND TRIPOLI BASED DIPLOMATS. ONE WIDELY HEARD SPECULATION IS THAT CONCERN OVER PERSONAL SECURITY FOLLOWING HELICOPTER CRASH

HAS INTENSIFIED. (EVEN THOUGH MOST RECENT REPORTS FROM SOURCES IN LIBYAN AIR FORCE SUGGEST THAT CRASH WAS EITHER MECHANICAL FAILURE OR PILOT ERROR OR COMBINATION THEREOF, LIKELY QADHAFI WOULD STILL SUSPECT CONSPIRACY.) MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT HE REMAINS IN CYRENAICA TO LEAD APRIL 7 CELEBRATIONS (VICTORY OF THE PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS OF BENGHAZI UNIVERSITY OVER THE REACTIONARY FORCES IN EARLY 1976. VICTORY IN FACT WAS LIBYAN REGIME'S RESPONSE TO THE STUDENT PROTEST WHICH OCCURRED EARLIER THAT YEAR AND LED TO BRUTAL REPRESSION AT BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI UNIVERSITIES INCLUDING REPORTEDLY A NUMBER OF DEATHS AMONG THE STUDENTS). A RELATED CONSIDERATION FOR QADHAFI IS THAT HE, TOO, AWARE OF INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS OF UNREST IN CYRENAICA INCLUDING MINOR ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-REGIME LEAFLETS WANTS TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
CARLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL00510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0922
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780488/aaaacwwh.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29a45cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TRIPOLI 367
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3061113
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI'S CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM TRIPOLI
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29a45cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014